IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Cyril LINNOT et al.

Conf.

Application No. NEW NATIONAL PHASE

Group

Filed February 7, 2006

Examiner

METHOD FOR PRODUCING A PIECE MADE OF SINTERED AMORPHOUS SILICA, AND MOLD AND SLURRY USED IN THIS METHOD

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

February 7, 2006

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 10 of this paper.

An $\ensuremath{\mathbf{Appendix}}$ is attached following the signature page of this paper.